



NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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For Immediate Release
January 5, 2006

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BLM's Socorro Field Office Holds Open House February 2

Santa Fe—The new Bureau of Land Management building for the Socorro Field Office will officially open its doors to the public in dedication ceremonies beginning at 1:30 pm on Thursday, February 2. The Socorro High School band and choir will perform for the occasion. The new building is at 901 South Hwy 85. The public is invited to an open house to tour the new building and meet BLM officials.

John Merino, the new Socorro field office manager, staff and other BLM New Mexico officials will be on hand to meet the public.

Merino comes to BLM most recently from the Cibola National Forest where he was the Forest Engineer and also managed the Fire and Safety programs. A native of New Mexico, born in Silver City and reared in the Mimbres Valley, Merino has worked in the private sector as an engineering consultant as well as with the Soil Conservation Service, the BLM in Worland, Wyoming and Las Cruces, NM plus the Bureau of Indian Affairs out of Shiprock, NM. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Structural engineering from New Mexico State.

In September, 2005, he completed the year-long Forest Service senior leadership management school, a highly competitive program geared towards providing leadership training for higher management positions that only allowed 40 students nationwide to attend.

John and his wife Laura have five children, the oldest Jeremiah, having just returned from three tours of duty in Iraq.

The Socorro Field Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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